

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 6-13, 16 and 26-30 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 1, 6, 13, 16 and 27 and cancels Claims 2, 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17-25 without prejudice or disclaimer. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed application and do not introduce new matter. Further, the present Amendment merely incorporates into Claims 1 and 13 already considered features from allowable dependent claims. Therefore, the present Amendment does not raise new issues. Entry of the present Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

In the Office Action of June 6, 2005, Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pages (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,818) in view of Trikha (U.S. Patent No. 6,003,811). Claims 5, 15, and 27 were objected to but noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form. In addition, the Advisory Action dated September 20, 2005 indicated that Claims 1, 3, 6-13, 16 and 26-30 would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claims. Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in the claims.

In response to the indication that Claim 5 is allowable, Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of Claims 2, 4, and 5. Claims 2, 4, and 5 are thus canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claim 1 and all associated dependent claims are now allowable.

In response to the indication that Claim 15 is allowable, Claim 13 is amended to incorporate the features of Claims 14 and 15. Claims 14 and 15 are thus canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claim 13 and all associated dependent claims are now allowable.

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Reply to Office Action of June 6, 2005

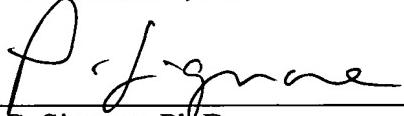
In response to the rejection of Claim 17 under U.S.C. § 103(a), Claims 17-25 having been cancelled, the rejection is now moot.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 3, 6-13, 16 and 26-30 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.


Philippe J.C. Signore, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 43,922

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)